

THE CALCUTTA JOURNAL

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General Summary of News.

[No. 214.]

Arab Pirates.

In resuming the Narrative of yesterday, which we brought up to the period of the assembling of the Squadron at Bushire, in the month of November 1816, we had intended to have included the events of the voyage from thence to Ras-ul-Khyma; but as this would break the continuity of the Memoir, and may be reserved with more propriety for a future period, we shall confine ourselves solely to those operations in which the Arab Pirates, as the subject of this communication, were concerned.

It will be necessary to give this portion, however, in the form of a Journal, for the sake of greater clearness, and as nearly verbatim as possible, from the original document from which it was taken, to explain the circumstances that led to the writer of it embarking on this service. It is as follows:—

On my arrival at Bushire at the close of the year 1816, after a twelve months' tedious journey by land from Egypt, through Syria, Asia Minor, Mesopotamia, and Persia, I was naturally impatient to reach my ulterior destination, and to embark for India by the earliest opportunity. It happened, however, that there was not a vessel likely to sail directly for any Indian port, for several months to come, though a squadron was lying in the roads, consisting of His Majesty's Sloop Challenger, Captain Brydges, the H. C. Cruisers Mercury, Captain Blast; Ariel, Captain Arthur; and Vestal, Captain Tanner; which were to proceed to Ras-ul-Khyma, on an appointed service; and in this, Mr. Bruce, the H. C. Resident at Bushire, and Lieut. Taylor of the Bombay Army, attached to the Residency, were to embark on duty; and Lieut. Col. Corsellis, also of the Bombay Army, then at Bushire on sick leave, was to go as passenger in such ship as might subsequently be sent on to Bombay with dispatches, to convey the result of the negotiations.

This being the only opportunity that then presented itself, and its holding out the tempting advantage of my seeing a comparatively unknown part of the Arabian coast, and becoming acquainted with a new tribe of Arabs, both of which I should never probably have another occasion of enjoying, I made every effort to be permitted to accompany it. As I then wore the dress of the country, with a long beard, and had, for a considerable period preceding this, spoken only Arabic, and lived entirely as a Mohammedan, it was thought that I might be of essential service to the squadron, in any communications that might be required with the Arab Pilots of the vessels employed on the voyage, as well as with the Pirate Chiefs at Ras-ul-Khyma, with whom personal conferences might be requisite, in the event of its being necessary to enter into much explanation; though, for the negotiations that might have to be conducted in writing, the Officer who filled that department, Lieutenant Taylor, with the assistance of a very able and intelligent Persian Mollah, and Mr. Bruce, the Honorable Company's Resident, to whom both those languages were familiar, would be more than adequate.

I was myself sufficiently rewarded by the idea of my being of the smallest utility in so good a cause; and the party promised to be so agreeable, that there was but one wish and one opinion as to my joining them. We all embarked, therefore, on the 18th of November, on board the H. C. C. Mercury, leaving Captain Blast behind at the Factory, in a state of extreme ill health, which rendered it impossible for him to remain on board; and while the Naval part of the Expedition was considered to be under the direction of Captain Brydges, of H. M. S. Challenger; the Political or Diplomatic was understood to be confided to Mr. Bruce, the H. C. Resident, who had made the Mercury, in which we had embarked, his head-quarters, and was accompanied by all the persons, necessary for the completion of his suite.

As before premised, we shall waive all detail of the voyage from Bushire to Ras-ul-Khyma; stating only that we witnessed an almost total eclipse of the sun on the afternoon of the 19th, attended with sultry calm, which was followed by unsteady and tempestuous weather; and that after a tedious voyage, as it regarded winds, but an extremely agreeable one in every other respect, we anchored in the roads of Ras-ul-Khyma, on the evening of the 26th of November, eight days after leaving Bushire.

As the arrival of the squadron had excited a considerable degree of alarm in the minds of the natives, since they had been prepared to expect hostile measures, the whole of the night seemed to have been passed by them in preparation for defence, and we witnessed a continual discharge of musketry in different quarters of the town, and even of cannon from the towers, and forts there.

At daylight in the morning of the 27th of November, a boat was sent from H. M. S. Challenger, under the charge of Mr. Wimble, second Lieut. to take on shore Mr. Taylor and the Arab Mollah, as bearers of a Letter from Mr. Bruce. The purport of the Letter was briefly this. 1. It stated the firm conviction of the British Government, that the capture of the vessels in the Red Sea bearing their flag, had been committed under a knowledge of

their being English property, and they therefore waved all further discussions on that point. 2. It insisted on the immediate restoration of the plundered property, amounting to about twelve lacs of rupees. 3. It demanded also, that the Commander of the piratical squadron, Ameer Ibrahim, should be delivered up for punishment, and that two of the sons of their Chief should be placed in the hands of the Bombay Government, as hostages for their future conduct. A refusal to comply with all or any of these requisitions, it was added by the Commander, would be considered as a defiance of the British power; and therefore noon was fixed by him for the return of a definitive answer, by which the future movements of the squadron would be regulated.

On the return of the bearers of this Letter to the ship, they reported, that they had landed on the beach, and made their way to the gate of the town, which was guarded by persons within, who opened it only a few inches to receive the Letter brought; that the gate was then closed in their faces, and they returned to their boat without having been permitted to enter any part of the town, or to go in any other than a strait line to the beach.

As Captain Brydges did not feel perfectly assured of the Letter having reached its ultimate destination, and suspected that its not having been delivered into the hands of the Chief himself might be afterwards insisted on as an evasion of the requisitions it contained, he was desirous of ascertaining the fact unequivocally, as well as of reconnoitring more closely in person the place of landing, the soundings, fortifications, &c. This wish was explained to me by Captain Brydges himself, and my opinion of its practicability asked, which, when given, was followed up by an offer on my part to accompany him in his gig, to assist in surveying and reconnoitring, and to serve him at the same time as Interpreter on shore, to both of which services I felt myself fully adequate, and with which he expressed himself highly satisfied.

We quitted the ship together, about nine o'clock, and pulled strait to the shore, sounding all the way as we went, and gradually shoaling our water from six fathoms, (the depth in which we lay to two and half, within a quarter of a mile of the beach, where four large dows lay at anchor, ranged in a line, with their heads to seaward, each of them mounting several pieces of cannon, and being full of men. We were hailed on passing these, and gave the necessary replies in Arabic, without being further molested.

On landing on the beach, we found its whole length guarded by a line of armed men, some bearing muskets, but the greater number of them swords, shields, and spears; most of them were negroes, whom the Joassamees spare in their massacres, looking on them rather as property and articles of merchandise than in the light of infidels or enemies. It at first appeared to us, that this line would oppose our progress since they were evidently placed there to cut off any approach to the town, but on beckoning to those immediately opposite to our place of landing, a party of them came near. To these I communicated our wish of being conducted to the presence of Hassan-ben-Rahma, the Chief, as we had some communications to make him personally. This was instantly complied with, and we proceeded under their escort, myself unarmed, and Captain Brydges in a short jacket and round hat—but wearing a sabre. As we were led through narrow passages, between lines of grass huts and small buildings, great pains were taken to prevent our seeing any thing to the right or the left, or making any observations on the plan of the town; while men, women, and children, who had all collected to see us pass, were driven before us by the spearmen and made to fly in every direction.

When we reached the gate of the principal building, which was nearly in the centre of the town, we were met by the Chief, attended by a retinue of about fifty armed men. I offered him the Mohammedan salutations of peace, which he returned to me without hesitation; and after a few complimentary expressions on either side, added to the pious ejaculations of the faithful, and grave smotherings of our beards, he bade us to be seated.

As we were in the public street, there were neither carpets, mats, no cushions; but we all sat on the ground. I shall pass over the long personal conference which related chiefly to myself, as their enquiries were very minute; the result, however, was, their conviction of my being an Arab merchant of Bagdad, going to India on commercial affairs, and having taken my passage in the squadron for India, had naturally enough, as understanding the infidels' language for the purposes of trade, consented to interpret for them in this negotiation. After all our private enquiries and replies were ended, I observed to him, at the request of Captain Brydges, that as the messengers by whom the Letter was sent to him in the morning, had not found access to his presence, we had come to ascertain from his own mouth;—First, whether the Letter had reached his hands;—Secondly, whether he perfectly understood its contents;—and Thirdly, whether an answer would be given to it within the time specified, or at noon of the present day. He replied in the affirmative to all these queries;—offered us re-

peated assurances of our being in perfect safety;—and expressed a hope, that the affair would be amicably accommodated. We repeated our assurances, also, that no breach of faith would be made on our parts; and after a long train of other inquiries and replies exchanged between us, relating to my future plans in India, my opinions on the idolatry of the country, character of the Infidels of the sect of Jesus, who governed it, and my own notions of the doctrines of the faith, &c. to all which I replied satisfactorily, we rose to depart and were escorted by armed men, who cleared our path for us to the boat in the same way as we had come from it.

The Chief, Hassan-ben-Rahma, whom we had seen, was a man of small stature, apparently about forty years of age, with an expression of cunning in his looks, and something particularly sarcastic in his smile. One of his eyes had been wounded, but his other features were good, and his teeth beautifully white and regular, his complexion very dark, and his beard scanty and chiefly confined to the chin. He was dressed in the usual Arab garments, with a Cashmeer shawl turban, and a scarlet benish of the Persian form, to distinguish him from his followers. These were habited in the plainest garments, with long shirts and keffias or handkerchiefs thrown loosely over the head; and most of them, as well as their Chief, carried large swords of the old Norman form, with long straight blades, of great breadth, and large cross-handles, perfectly plain; short spears were also borne by some, with circular shields of tough hide, ornamented with knobs of metal and gilding.

The town of Ras-ul-Khyma is situated in lat. 25. 47. N. and long. 55. 34. E. by the joint observations of the squadron on the first Expedition here, and confirmed by our own at present. It stands on a narrow tongue of sandy land, pointing to the north-eastward, presenting its north-west edge to the open sea, and its south-east one to a creek which runs up within it to the south-westward, and affords a safe harbour for boats. The town is probably half a mile in length, from north-east to south-west; and a quarter of a mile in breadth, from the beach of the sea to the beach of the creek. There appeared to be no continued wall of defence around it, tho' round towers and portions of walls are seen in several parts, probably once connected in line, but not yet repaired since their destruction. The strongest points of the town seem to be in a fortress, at the N. E. angle, and double round tower, near the centre of the town, in each of which guns are mounted; but all the other towers appear to afford only shelter for musketeers. The rest of the town is composed of ordinary buildings of unhewn stone, and huts of rushes and long grass, with narrow avenues winding between them. The present number of inhabitants may be computed at 10,000 at least, of whom probably three thousand may be males, capable of bearing arms, and certainly more than the half of these are negroes of African birth. The government is in undisputed possession of Hassan-ben-Rahma, the Chief; and his kinsman, Ameer Ibrahim, is considered as the Commodore of their maritime force. They are thought to have at present about sixty large boats out, from their own port, manned with crews of from eighty to three hundred men each. Forty other boats of a smaller size may be coasted among their auxiliaries, from the ports of Sharje and Rumma, on the Arabian coast; Charrack, and Linga, on the Persian coast; and Luft on the inside of the Island of Kishma, all subject to their authority. Their force, if concentrated, would thus amount to at least 100 vessels, with perhaps 400 pieces of cannon, and about 8,000 fighting men, well armed with muskets, swords, and spears. No circumstances, however, are likely to bring these all together; but on an invasion of their chief town, at Ras-ul-Khyma, they could certainly command a large reinforcement of Wahabees from the Desert, within ten or fifteen days notice. The cannon and musketry of these Pirates are chiefly procured from the vessels which they capture; but their swords, shields, spears, and ammunition, are mostly brought from Persia.

The country immediately in the vicinity of Ras-ul-Khyma is flat and sandy; but on the south-east side of the creek spoken of, and all along from thence to the eastward, there appear to be extensive and thick groves of date trees, the fruit of which forms the chief article of food, both for the people and their domestic cattle. At the termination of this flat plain, which may extend from ten to twenty miles back from the sea coast, in its various breadths, there rises a lofty range of apparently barren mountains. The highest point of their broken summits was estimated to be about 6,000 feet above the level of the sea, and their general aspect was that of lime-stone, but we could obtain no specimens or fragments of it. White strata were seen running horizontally near the summits, preserving every where a perfect level, though the summits themselves were rugged and uneven. The highest point of these hills was nearly behind Ras-ul-Khyma in a S. E. direction; to the N. E. the ridge falls gradually, until it terminates in the Capes of Khasab and Sham; and to the S. W. it tapers away almost to a level with the plain, and loses itself in the Desert there.

In these mountains there live a people called Sheebuheen, who are distinguished from all around them by having fair complexion, light hair, and blue eyes, like Europeans; and by speaking a distinct language, which none but themselves understand, and which has been compared, by those who have heard it, to the chuckling of a hen. They live both in villages and in tents, and acknowledge a Sheikh of their own, as Chief. They have three towns, near the sea, between Ras-ul-Khyma and Cape Musundum, called Shahim, Khassab, and Jaadi, each of which gives its name to the nearest head-land. These, however, are hardly considered to be ports; since the Sheebuheen possess no trading or war vessels, and only use the sea in fishing for the supply of their own immediate wants. Most of them speak Arabic, besides their own language; and they are all strict

Musulmanns, of the Soonee sect, having hitherto successfully resisted efforts of the Wahabees to effect their conversion.

The anchorage off Ras-ul-Khyma is an open roadstead, exposed to all the fury of the northerly and N. W. winds, which prevail in the Gulf, and throw a heavy sea into this bay, which then becomes also a lee-shore. In approaching it from the offing, we shoaled our water gradually, on a sandy bottom, to six fathoms, within three miles of the shore, where our squadron anchored. In our way from the vessels to the beach, in the Challenger's gig, we sounded as we went along, and carried two fathoms and half to within bare range of gun-shot from the houses; just beyond this, a ridge, or bank, with only ten feet water on it, formed a sort of break-water, running along parallel to the shore, at a distance of half a mile from the beach. Within this, the water deepened again to 2½ fathoms, and here the light dove rode in smooth water, within a hundred yards of the shore, being sheltered from the sea by the ridge of sand before spoken of. The entrance of the creek, or back-water, in which they haul up their vessels for greater security or repair, appeared to us to be about a mile and half to the N. E. of the extreme point of the town, along the line of the beach. The entrance to this creek is impeded by a bar, over which there is only eleven feet at high water, so that it is impassable at all other times, but by vessels of very easy draught.

The tides along this shore set from N. E. to S. W. in the line of the coast; the N. E. being the ebb, and the S. W. the flood; the former winding round Cape Musundum out of the Gulf, and the latter flowing up the Arabian shore. The rise and fall, while we lay there, was about six feet; and the rate not more than a knot and half per hour, or just sufficient to swing the vessels in a light breeze; but no accurate observations were made to ascertain the time of high water at full and change.

About seven miles from Ras-ul-Khyma to the north-eastward, is a town called Rumma, which shows some towers and dwellings, and has also a creek with a bar across its entrance. This place affords good shelter for boats, and is a dependency of the former, as well as Geziret-ul-Hamra, already described, bearing S. W. by W. ¼ W. eleven miles, from the town.

Captain Brydges and myself having returned to the Challenger, we waited until the hour of noon had passed, when a gun was fired, the top-anchors sheeted home, and the signal to prepare to weigh, displayed. This was instantly obeyed by the whole of the squadron, tho' it was intended to wait another hour of grace for the answer from the shore. In the mean time, a boat arrived with deputies from the Chief, bringing a reply to the requisitions sent. In this he stated;—First, the impossibility of restoring the identical property demanded, since it had long since been divided and consumed; or the amount of its value in money, which was more than their whole wealth, at the present moment, equalled;—Secondly, he peremptorily refused to deliver up the Ameer Ibrahim, who was his kinsman and near friend, and denied that this Chief was guilty of any thing which deserved punishment, in capturing, with the vessels under his command, the persons and property of idolaters and strangers to the true God;—Thirdly, deputies were offered to be sent by him to Bombay, to treat on the affair; but not in the light of hostages, as demanded; since safe protection would be required for their going and returning. It was added, however, that as all things were of God, deliberation might possibly accord better with his counsels than hasty determination; and it was therefore requested, that time might be granted, until the next noon, to know what the wisdom of the Almighty had decreed to take place between them.

The Letter of Public Instructions from the Government of Bombay, had ordered, that on the refusal of the Joassamee Chief to comply with the requisitions therein stated, the squadron was to quit the place, but not without signifying to him, that he might expect the displeasure of the British Government to be visited on him and his race. Notwithstanding this, however, and the insolent as well as evasive answer of the Chief, it was determined to allow him until the following noon, to deliberate; and our sails were accordingly furled, and the signal for weighing annulled for the present.

At sun-set the wind having freshened from the N. W. and a heavy swell setting into the bay, it was deemed imprudent to continue at anchor there during the night; the squadron therefore weighed, in company, and stood out to sea, the wind increasing to a gale towards midnight.

It was intended on our leaving Ras-ul-Khyma, to have returned again to the anchorage there, at sun-rise the following morning; but the gale having obliged us to keep the sea, we found ourselves at daylight of the 28th nearly over with the Island of Kishma on the Persian coast, having gradually deepened our water in mid channel to 46 fathoms, and from thence progressively shoaled again.

At 8 A. M. we had closed in with this Island, and had the smaller one of Anjar under our lee to the N. E. The land had broken off the heavy swell of the sea; and finding ourselves in smooth water, the signal was made for the Mercury to lead in and anchor in the bight between the Islands.

We accordingly stood in shore, gradually shoaling our water to 10 fathoms, within about three miles of the southern edge of Kishma, where the soundings are erroneously marked 5 fathoms at six miles off, in Arrowsmith's Chart of 1810.

Bearing up from hence E. N. E. along the line of the coast, and shoaling from ten to five fathoms as we approached the Island of Anjar, we anchored at noon in that depth, on a muddy ground. Our place of anchorage by careful observation was found to be in lat. 26° 40' N. and long. 56° 41' E.

The Island of Kishma is the largest of all those in the Persian Gulf, being about sixty miles in length from N. E. to S. W. and nearly twenty miles in its greatest breadth, from near Luft, on its northern shore, to the point near Anjar on its southern one. It is called Geziret Toweel, or Long Island, by the Arabs and is said to have been once highly populated by them. Their deserted villages indeed still remain, but the people have been mostly driven out by the Joassamees, who plundered them in successive debarkations on their coast, carried off all their cattle and all their moveables, and obliged them to seek refuge in the opposite mountains of Persia. The vallies are still said to be verdant, and both dates and water are abundant in them; but the flocks and cattle which were once numerous here, have followed the fate of their former possessors. The central range of hills which traverses the Island of Kishma lengthwise, appears to have been originally a table land or elevated plain, but this being worn down and broken at irregular intervals, presents a line of fantastic hills, of moderate height, generally under 1000 feet in elevation. The soil is loose and soft, and its appearance extremely white, tho' according to report, antimony is found in it. The hills are perfectly barren, but the vallies of the interior are said to be in general fertile. This Island, which is called Kishom, or Queixome, in the old voyages of the Portuguese, is described by them to have been in their days sufficiently fertile, but very unhealthy; and this complaint against the salubrity of its climate still continues.

The island of Kishma is separated from the main land, by a navigable strait of about five miles in general breadth, and carrying five fathoms water through it in mid-channel.

To the N. E. of Kishma, about five leagues, is the island of Ormus, the Harmozia of the Greeks, and the celebrated emporium of the Portuguese in these seas; and near this, on the main land, the port of Shah Abbas, at Gomberoon, called from him, Bunder Abassi, both of which are spoken of at large in several modern Works.

At the eastern extremity of Kishma, is the island of Larak or Ul-Arak, the Oracti of the Greeks, with the Arabic article prefixed, which is said to be high, and to afford a shelter from the N. W. gales under its lee; and at the southern edge of Kishma, about midway between its eastern and western extremes, is the island of Anjar, which formed the excellent anchorage of our squadron. This island is called by the Arabs Unyam, and is separated from Kishma by a strait of about a mile wide, with a clear passage through, of six fathoms depth, and safe anchorage both within and on either side of it. The island is low towards its edge, moderately high in the centre, nearly round in form, and seemingly from four to five miles in diameter, its southern extreme being in Lat. 26° 37' N.

Some observations made on this island during the Expedition against the Joassamees in 1809, state that the soil of which it is composed, is chiefly sand and clay. Wherever the sea has made an irruption, a clay is petrified into hard rock; and in the same way, the roots of a plantation of date trees were discovered in a complete state of petrification. Immediately beneath the surface of the soil, in a valley which has been seemingly overflowed by the sea, salt was also found in large spiculae. On one of the highest parts of this island, were found two excavations, which were conceived to be mines; and from the appearance of the soil, it was thought probable, that iron and brimstone had been found therein—indeed sand of a feruginous quality is found over every part of the island.

There is said to be fresh water on the S. W. point only, but this article was formerly collected during the rains, in large tanks, of which several are still remaining, in a state that would require little expence to put them in perfect repair. In a failure of rain, water could be had from the villages of Kishma only; but these, as well as the ruined ones still seen on Anjar, are now all depopulated and abandoned. The Island of Kishma, and that of Anjar, to the south of it, seems to have been both included in the ancient name of Orjana, which might easily have been corrupted into Anjar, and applied only to the last by the moderns; since the former was distinguished most appropriately by the Arabs as the Long Island, in contradistinction to all the others of the Gulf.

We had the tides in our anchorage here, similar in rates, course of setting, and height of rise, to those of Ras-ul-Khyma; but had not experienced the tide of three knots which is marked in the chart to run in mid-channel. No observations had been taken for the magnetic variation, since my being on board the vessel, but half a point was allowed in a rough way on the courses steered; the variation of the Compass in 1809 was 8° 45' W. as marked on the charts.

Having lain at the anchorage of Anjar during the whole of the night of the 28th, and the strength of the N. W. gale having broken, we weighed with the squadron soon after sun-rise of the 29th, and stood across the Gulf towards Ras-ul-Khyma, carrying out the same gradual soundings as we had brought in.

At noon we observed, in lat. 26° 32' N., and were in long. 55° 36' E., with the centre of Anjar N. E. and the western extreme of Kishma, W. by N. soundings 28 fathoms on mud. Our winds were light, and hanging from the westward through the afternoon; and at sun-set, we had the extremes of the Arabian land, from E. by N. to S. by E. & E., no part of the coast yet visible above the horizon, and our soundings deepened to 42 fathoms.

We had light winds through the night of the 29th, from off the land, and at sun-rise on the 30th, had shoaled our water to 23 fathoms on a sandy bottom, the extremes of the Arabian coast from S. by E. to N. E. by E.

At 9. 30 A. M., we saw the town of Ras-ul-Khyma, bearing S. E. just rising above the horizon, with four large dows at anchor abreast of it.

At noon, we observed in lat. 25° 50' N., and were in long. 55° 34' E., with the extremes of the Arabian land, from S. by W. to N. E. by N. and the centre of the town of Ras-ul-Khyma S. E. with soundings in 10 fathoms mud.

At 2 P. M. having gone about 4 miles S. E. since noon, we anchored in the roads, 6½ fathom mud, with the centre of the town S. E. & S. distant about three miles, and the extremes of the Arabian coast, from N. E. & N. to S. W. & S.

The afternoon passed without further communication with the shore than the sending a Letter to the Chief, signifying the cause of our quitting the bay so suddenly as we had done, and announcing our return, as well as granting him until the following noon to prepare his final answer to the original requisitions made.

We waited throughout the morning of the 1st of December, at our anchorage, in hourly expectation of receiving messengers from the shore; when at length, about noon, a boat appeared, bringing some messengers from Hassan-ben Rahmah. The substance of the answer brought by them was equally as unsatisfactory as their former replies, and they wound it up by saying, that if the Commander of the Squadron would receive Ambassadors on board his ship from the Chief, and leave pledges for his safe conduct of them to the presence of the Governor in Bombay, to treat of the affair in question, as well as for their safe return to Ras-ul-Khyma, when such treaty was concluded, they should be sent with instructions for that purpose; but that if he refused this, and persisted in his original demands, the issue must be left in the hands of Him from whom all events proceed, and what He had decreed must come to pass.

The messengers were accordingly ordered to quit the ship, and repair with all possible haste to the shore; it being signified to them at the same time, that the final answer of their Chief could be received in no other light than as a defiance of the power of the squadron to enforce their demands, and that therefore all further negotiation was at an end.

The signal was now made to weigh, and stand closer in towards the town; it was soon followed by the signal to prepare for battle; and shortly afterwards by the signal to engage the enemy. The squadron bore down nearly in line under easy sail, and with the wind right aft, or on shore; the Mercury being on the starboard hand, the Challenger next in order in the centre, the Vestal following in the same line, and the Ariel completing the division. The northeastermost dow had weighed to sail up along shore and got closer to the three others, lying there, the approach to which was protected by the ten feet bank or ridge described as running along parallel to the beach. It was intended, that the Ariel should have cut this vessel off, but as the wind was light, there was no approaching her in sufficient time for that purpose.

A large fleet of smaller boats were seen standing in from Cape Musun dum at the same time, but these escaped by keeping still closer along shore, and at length passing over the bar and getting into the creek or back-water behind the town.

The squadron continued to stand on in a right line towards the four anchored dows, gradually shoaling from the depth of our anchorage to two and half fathoms, where stream anchors were dropped under foot, with springs on the cables, so that each vessel lay with her broadside directly facing the shore. A fire was now opened from all the vessels of the squadron in succession, the Vestal having fired the first gun, and these were all directed to the four dows anchored close in shore. These vessels were full of men, who were seen brandishing their weapons in the air, their whole number exceeding probably a thousand persons. Some of the shot from the few long guns of the squadron only just reached the beach and were buried in the sand; others fell across the bows and near the hulls of the dows to which they were directed; but the carronades all fell short, as we were then fully a mile from the beach. The master of the Challenger was then sent with a boat to sound, in order to ascertain if it were practicable at that time of tide to approach any nearer to the enemy, but found the bank of ten feet to be only a few yards within the ship, whose draft was fourteen feet. The Vestal and Ariel, however, dropped to within six inches of their own draughts; and in the Mercury we had not a foot to spare; yet even with this risk of grounding, our fire was ineffectual, and out of at least 500 shot that were discharged from the squadron jointly, not one of them seemed to have done any execution.

The fire was returned from the dows with as little success; all their shot falling short, but two of the Forts having, after some time passed in preparation, at length opened on us, their fire proved to be much more ably directed than ours had been, as several of their shot passed over us, and one of them shot away one of the Vestal's fore shrouds in its passage over her and then dropped under her weather bow.

The Arab colours were displayed on all the Forts, crowds of armed men were assembled on the beach, bearing large banners on poles, and dancing around them with their arms, as if rallying around a sacred standard; so that no sign of submission or of conquest was witnessed throughout.

Seeing that all efforts were unavailing from the ships, and judging that there was no chance of success in attempting to cut these dows out with the boats, though every boat of the squadron had been hoisted out before the ships left their first anchorage for that purpose, the signal was made to weigh and stand off. The Ariel continued to discharge about fifty shot after all the others had desisted, but with as little avail as before; and thus ended this wordy negotiation, and the bloodless battle which it eventually led to;

The instructions of the Bombay Government had ordered, that on the failure of the application for redress, the squadron should retire, after signifying to the Chief that he might expect the displeasure of the British nation to be visited on him in return for his hostile acts against their flag. Had this been strictly complied with, the Joasamees might have remained in a state of suspense with regard to the capture of our vessels, agitated between hope and fear; and time would have been given to the Bombay Government to prepare a more formidable Expedition against them, without exposing their vessels to capture during the interval. But by this act of open warfare, and that too which admitted of a seeming triumph on the part of our enemies over our weakness, and a contempt of our incapacity to accomplish what we had attempted, all peace was at an end, and the slightly-armed merchant ships of the Gulf were exposed from this moment to be attacked in their passage, since they must all pass not far from Ras-ul-Khyma on entering and on departing from the Gulf. It is true that the destruction of the four dows which lay at anchor in their harbour, prepared for such depredations, would have been a temporary good, if it could have been effected; but even this would have been but a trifling reduction of their blockading force, while they had, as we were assured from other quarters, fifteen sail cruising at the entrance of the Gulf, from Ras-ul-Had, on the Arabian side, to Cape Jaska on the Persian shore, and five other sail blockading the entrance of the Bussorah river. At all events, it would have been wise to have first weighed the obstacles, so as to decide whether they could be overcome or not, before undertaking what, if accomplished, would have been a very doubtful good, and what, if failed in, was likely to make the most unfavorable impressions, and lead to very serious consequences before they could be provided against by any countervailing force.

Nothing, therefore, could be more impolitic on the part of the Bombay Government, than to send a squadron, to which all possible importance was given, on the errand of making certain presumptory demands, without accompanying it by troops, or an adequate power to enforce them; except, perhaps, the conduct of the squadron itself, in attempting what the least reflection before-hand would have shown to be impracticable, and thus making their operations an object of derision among those against whom they were directed, and leading unnecessarily to a declared and open rupture, by which the merchant ships of the Gulf were thrown into immediate danger, without the means of preventing or repelling it.

From that period up to the present moment, it has been found necessary to maintain a large Naval Force in the Gulf, of King's and Company's Cruisers; and to suffer no ship to pass from Muscat to Bushire and Bussorah, or either up or down the Gulf, without convoy; notwithstanding which, the Joasamees have made several successful expeditions;—taken several ports on the Persian shore; swept round the eastern side of the Gulf;—threatened Bushire, and created such alarm there as to induce the removal of families, and of property, from thence into the interior;—blockaded the entrance to the Tigris and Euphrates, and held Bussorah in alarm of a visit from them;—and subsequently have even attacked several English ships, among which particularly were the Alexander of this port, and two or three others under convoy of one of the Honorable Company's Cruisers; and the Humayoon Shah, of Bombay, under convoy of the Challenger; the former mounting twelve 24 pounders, with a crew of 100 men, and a company of Sepoys, and the latter eighteen 32 pounders with 120 seamen and marines, which enabled them, though they were surrounded in the night by a fleet of about 40 sail of Pirates, some having not less than 350 men on board, and none less than 100, to clear their way through them, sink two, disable several others, and defeat their end, which was that of grappling and boarding, and in which if they had succeeded, both ships would have fallen a prey, and not an individual have escaped being massacred.

The public Papers have, since that period, given occasional notices of their depredations, and held out hopes of an Expedition proceeding against them from Bombay, at the commencement of every cold season. The period has at length arrived; and as the conduct of it is in able hands, we trust that every department of it will be made efficient, and that they will not return from their labours, until they have not only rooted out every vestige of Piratical power that remains in the Gulf, but formed an establishment, either at Bahrain, which we think the most eligible spot, or elsewhere, so as to render it impossible for these Pirates ever again to recover strength enough to renew their depredations, either on British vessels, or the smaller craft of the natives that navigate these seas.

We shall watch the progress of their operations with great anxiety, and suggest from time to time such opinions as may arise thereon.

News.

The absence of arrivals from Europe, and our communications from the Interior being confined chiefly to Letters on subjects of discussion, give us little of novelty in the shape of General News to offer our readers.

A Letter has been received from the Commander of the Amboyna, at Injeram, or Coringa, on the coast, dated October 1, in which he says:—"As the Amboyna was leaky, I landed 300 bags of her rice to lighten her."

The Madras Courier of the 28th September, which came to hand yesterday, contains the following information.

Pursuant to a notice, which had been published, a meeting of the Friends of the lamented Archdeacon, of learned and pious memory, was held at the College Hall on Friday last, the 24th of September, and the following proceedings were had on that occasion.

At a Meeting of the Friends of the late Reverend Archdeacon Mousley, D. D. held in the College Hall, pursuant to notice, on Friday evening, the 24th Sept. 1819, the Hon. Sir John Newbolt, in the Chair. It was Resolved

First. That a Monument be erected to commemorate the public and private virtues of the late learned and pious Dr. Mousley, the first Archdeacon of Madras.

Secondly. That a Committee, consisting of the following Gentlemen, be appointed to carry the foregoing Resolution into effect, with power to add to their number.

The Honorable Sir John Newbolt.	E. C. Greenway, Esq.
His Excellency Lieut.-Gen. Sir T. Hislop, Bart. G. C. B.	W. Oliver, Esq.
The Honorable Sir Edmund Stanley,	D. Hill, Esq.
The Revd. Edward Vaughan, Senior Chaplain,	J. Gwatkin, Esq.
The Reverend Thomas Lewis,	R. Yeldham, Esq.
	Captain Maclean,
	R. Clarke, Esq.

Thirdly. That Subscriptions be received of sums not less than 30, nor more than 100 Rupees.

Fourthly. That Mr. Gwatkin be the Treasurer, and Mr. Clarke, the Secretary of the Committee.

The following Sums were subscribed instantly:—

The Right Honorable the Governor,	Rupees 100
The Honorable Sir John Newbolt,	100
His Excellency Lieutenant General Sir T. Hislop, Bt. G. C. B.	100
The Honorable Sir E. Stanley,	50
The Reverend Edward Vaughan, Senior Chaplain,	100
The Reverend Thomas Lewis,	100
E. C. Greenway Esq.	100
Thomas Jarret, Esq.	100
W. Oliver, Esq.	100
D. Hill, Esq.	100
John Gwatkin, Esq.	100
Captain Maclean,	70
R. Yeldham, Esq.	60
R. Clarke, Esq.	100

Grant to Colonel Salmond.

In the Asiatic Journal for May, the latest that has yet reached this country, there is a full Report of a Debate on a subject which cannot fail to be interesting to Indian readers generally; but to the Army, which forms so large a portion of ours, most particularly so; and our attention having been directed to it by some whose experience entitles their judgment to great respect, we have seized the present favorable opportunity of a freedom from more powerful claims, to give to those to whom this late Number of the Asiatic Journal cannot yet have reached, an opportunity of perusing the portion thus selected.

EAST INDIA HOUSE, MARCH 24, 1819.

After some other business the CHAIRMAN observed "I have now to state to the court, that it is made special for the purpose of laying before the proprietors a resolution of the court of directors of the 30th December last, granting to Lieut.-col. James Salmond, the military secretary for conducting the military correspondence with India, an addition of £500 per annum to his salary." The resolution shall be now read for the information of the proprietors.

"At a court of directors held on Wednesday the 30th December 1818, it was resolved, that in consideration of the great abilities with which Lieut.-col. James Salmond has discharged the arduous duties of his office, and the additional labour imposed on him by the transfer of the military correspondence to his department, an addition be made to his salary of £500 per annum, to commence from the date when the said transfer of the military correspondence took place."

The CHAIRMAN begged leave to inform the court, that the present measure was very strongly and unanimously approved of by the executive body, and by them most warmly recommended to the favourable notice of the proprietors. It was recommended on account of the eminent and meritorious services of the gentleman in question, and of the important and laborious duties which he had to perform. No less a task was imposed on him than the maintaining an uninterrupted correspondence with three distinct settlements, on the details of three distinct armies, in which several different usages prevailed. Each of these he was obliged particularly to notice, and on each of them it was necessary he should correspond technically and correctly. Every circumstance relative to military operations, every thing connected with the departments of the adjutant-general and of the quartermaster-general, every thing that related to the medical board, every thing that was in a military point of view tangible, must come to this country in the shape of paragraphs, and be regularly answered by the enlightened mind and comprehensive capacity of this individual. (hear.) Gentlemen must be aware, that the members composing the court of directors had so much important business on their hands, as rendered it impossible for them to travel into the detail of those affairs which were entrusted to Colonel Salmond's superintendence; it was as much as human powers could effect to read what was written with respect to their military force, much less to investigate and weigh the motives in which different acts originated and were pursued. (hear, hear.) When it was recollected, that the equipment of their armies in the field, from their tenting even to their cartouch-boxes, must come under the cognizance of this officer, who was responsible to the court of directors, to the proprietors

not large, to the Indian community, and to the whole world, for the correctness of his proceedings, it would at once be seen that the situation was of the highest importance, and consequently, if its duties were performed with diligence and correctness by the person to whom they were entrusted, he should be handsomely provided for.

Lieut.-col. Salmond had been selected some years ago to fill this office, and considerable expectations were held out to him of liberal reward. It was in consequence of those expectations which Col. Salmond was induced to entertain at that time, as well as the fresh duties which had been recently imposed upon him, that the court of directors had thought it proper to recommend an increase of salary. By a late regulation, in addition to his other duties, all personal applications of a military nature were referred to the consideration of the military secretary, whose duty it was to prepare the documents and bring the several questions distinctly before the court of directors. The proprietors must be aware, that of all the questions which came under the consideration of the court those of a personal nature were the most delicate. The decision upon personal questions was liable to great inconvenience, since, partially might be exercised in settling them at rest; but in the course of a few years, the court of directors had an opportunity of seeing, appreciating, and approving the correct conduct as well as the great abilities of Col. Salmond; he had acted like an honorable and disinterested man; neither deviating to the right nor to the left; when personal questions were submitted to him; and he was sure the court would not separate without marking their decided approbation of the conduct of so upright and honorable an individual.

Mr. HUME hoped the court would indulge him for a short time while he made a few observations on the present resolution, which appeared to him to be one of a most important nature. In doing this, he felt that he could not carry the court along with him without calling the attention of the proprietors to Col. Salmond's progress in the situation which he now held. No man was more ready than himself to support properly, and appreciate duly, the abilities exerted in their service. Though he had not the same opportunity which others had of witnessing the talents of Col. Salmond, he yet was willing to believe that they were found useful and efficient. But connected with this subject there was another point of very great importance, namely, that of acting consistently with the proceeding adopted by the court in April 1809. When the motion was brought forward, on the 7th of April in that year, to place Col. Salmond in the situation of assistant military secretary, a discussion took place as to the propriety of an individual being nominated to that office, who was a stranger to the East-India House.

The objection then made was a clear and plain one. His learned friend (Mr. Jackson) stated distinctly, that it was an unusual and a dangerous practice for a person to be appointed to an office of this description not educated in the house. It was answered, that there were no individuals within those walls capable of conducting this department, and that therefore it was necessary to sanction the nomination of Col. Salmond, who was peculiarly qualified to undertake the duties of the office. Notwithstanding this, an amendment was moved by his learned friend, which in substance set forth that the then nomination should not be drawn into a precedent for the introduction of strangers to the home establishment. This was, he thought, a very proper amendment; and the reason why he mentioned it was this, that the court of directors at that period declared distinctly and specifically that the measure was sanctioned at the time they required it. They went on farther, and said, that they would, as soon as possible, introduce young men of ability into the office, who, in case of a vacancy by resignation or death, would be able to carry on the business effectually.

Matters, however, went on without alteration. Col. Salmond was appointed with a salary of £800 a year, which had been ultimately increased to £1,500 per annum. On the 17th of December 1817 the subject of the military department was brought before the proprietors. The court of directors, it appeared, in a report dated the 24th of February, stated, that the extent of military duty was so much increased in amount, that an additional assistant was necessary. It was then stated from the chair, that Col. Salmond had so much to do with the foreign correspondence alone, it was impossible for him to conduct the military department; from the duties of which Mr. Wright, the civil auditor, had been relieved. For the purpose of making up for this deficiency, an assistant military secretary was appointed in the person of Col. Bryce. It was understood that he was to have the charge of all those military details which Col. Salmond was not capable of attending to. He now wished to point out to the attention of the court what appeared to him to be a little inconsistency in their present proceedings. The resolution of the court of directors clearly went to shew this, that Col. Salmond, who, twelve months ago, was said to have more business to perform than he could go through, had since been charged with additional duties, and was therefore to have an increase of salary. As he understood the circumstances of the case, the assistant military secretary, appointed by the resolution of the court of directors of the 28th of August 1816, was intended to take from off the hands of Mr. Wright and Col. Salmond those military duties which bore too heavily on them. Those who knew the Company's situation in India, the enlarged extent of their territory and the necessity which existed for increasing their corps from time to time could not be able to imagine, if Col. Salmond, in 1817, could not perform the military duties of his situation, how he could now get through them with so much rapidity.

He thought the resolution of the court of directors, which had been just read, was altogether inconsistent with the former proceeding to which he had alluded, because it seemed to throw on Col. Salmond those very

duties which he was before described as incapable of performing, on account of their weight and extent. He did not understand how this was to be explained; but beyond what he had already adverted to, there was something still more extraordinary which required the notice of the proprietors. The military secretary, whose appointment was agreed to by that court on the 17th December 1817, had, it appeared, been appointed to another situation. How then did the court stand at present? The proprietors would scarcely believe it when he said, that the whole business of an army of 150,000 men was now to be transacted by one gentleman. (Hear.) Some of the details which the hon. Chairman had noticed were arranged by particular boards, and did not give much trouble; but the great business of the military department, the forwarding answers to the various dispatches that were transmitted from the Army, this he understood to be the task specially entrusted to Col. Salmond. This he would say, that if any man in that court, or in the East India House, could get through such a multifarious duty with tolerable correctness, and even moderate speed, he must possess more than human powers, so very extensive was the military correspondence. (Hear, hear!) At this period there were various parts of the military correspondence that had fallen from time to time into considerable arrear. Their revision of Col. MacGregor's case was not concluded until a period of five years had elapsed; and other instances were to be found where the delay had been equally great. He did not mean to blame the officiating officer on account of such delay; all he meant to contend was, that it was not consistent with human exertion, confined to a single individual, to get through such a mass of business in a reasonable time.

The Court of Directors, when his learned friend moved the amendment to their resolution in 1809, virtually pledged themselves to provide a constant succession of talent and abilities in this important department, in order to guard against the inconvenience that must otherwise be felt, in case of resignation or death. But if Col. Salmond were intrusted with the whole affairs of the military department (and it should be remembered that he had seen many years service in India, which tended to impair the constitution); if this gentleman, contending with a duty that might stagger Hercules himself, should retire from ill health, or die, (and no man could answer for the continuance of his life during a single week), what then was the situation of the Company? It would be this: that there was not an individual in the office, except a junior clerk, lately introduced (hear) and consequently matters of great moment must stand still until an efficient successor was appointed. (Hear, hear!) In December 1817 he stated that arrangements should be made to obviate this difficulty, and he then understood that some plan for that purpose was under consideration in the court of directors. He supposed that they intended to provide a number of colleagues in the office, that there should be no interruption to a regular succession of individuals; but he now concluded that he was wrong in supposing the court of directors to have taken this subject seriously into consideration, so as to meet and provide for the difficulty whenever it should happen to arise. He believed, when a similar question was before them in 1817, he brought to the recollection of the court of directors the resolution and amendment of 1809; and he must say, that if the court were called on the present occasion, as they were on the former, to vote a sum of £300 a year to an additional officer, who should take a portion of this excessive labour from the shoulders of Col. Bryce, he would have been much better satisfied.

He confessed that he, for one, would have been most happy, if the resolution submitted to them had been to this purport: "That to provide a regular succession in the military department, in order to guard against the common contingencies of life, the court of directors thought it proper to appoint an assistant." He would have been glad to support such a resolution, which would go to ensure a regular discharge of the duties of this office. Who, he asked, could expect that Col. Salmond would remain in that house transacting business from January the 1st to December the 31st? He could not be always there; and when he was absent there was no one to proceed with the business. He was a zealous friend to economy, but he thought that it was not economical to ask one gentleman to perform duties that would occupy many; to call upon an individual to undertake an extent of business which he could not be expected in the course of things to get through, however zealous and attentive he might be. Although he did not wish that court to interfere with the internal resolutions of the court of directors; yet as the executive body were going on with reference to this subject in the old manner, as they had not placed the Company in a better situation, as far as this office was concerned, than that in which they stood years ago, he conceived it was not improper for them to express their sentiments as to the necessity of adopting a different course of proceeding. It was not a question why an addition of £500 per annum should be made to the salary of Col. Salmond; it was for them to see that Col. Salmond was properly remunerated, and that such a duty was imposed on him as he could be reasonably expected to do, which he must contend was not here the case. In 1809, the directors stated that the duties of the office should be correctly performed in future; but this, as appeared from their own shewing, was not the fact. A gentleman was appointed to assist Mr. Wright, who had been removed to another department.

He was aware that it was proposed to grant an addition to the salary of Col. Salmond; but he had no idea that an additional duty was to be imposed on him, after what the directors had stated in 1817. He little expected, after having declared at that time the business of the office to be too much for him, that they should add to his labours; and then state the accession of duty as a reason for increasing his salary. He objected to the increase of salary on that ground; because by granting it they prevented the quick performance of duties of ten times more importance than the money they were called on to expend. No matter what the sum pro-

posed was, no matter how extensive the grant, it could not enable a man to perform more than his physical strength and his mental energy were equal to. This was his opinion, but yet he did not wish to call on the court to negative the proposed addition; at the same time he must fairly state, that in justice they ought to do so, since in acceding to the resolution, they agreed to saddle Col. Salmond with a duty which he would not be able to perform, and would thus prevent him from giving his undivided attention to matters of much greater importance; he alluded to the foreign correspondence. Still, though he meant not to oppose the motion, he would not be doing his duty towards himself and the proprietors, if he did not put on record an expression of his opinion, that the court of directors had not fulfilled their pledge to the Company, they having failed in providing a regular succession of gentlemen to fill the office of military secretary, and in consequence left the business of the whole military department subject to the health of an individual. These observations appeared to him of so much importance, that he could not avoid making them. He should now read what he proposed to add as an amendment to the resolution on the table, and he would leave it to the court to dispose of it as they thought fit:—

"Resolved, That this court, fully sensible of the importance of the military correspondence of their army in India, and of the necessity of having men of talent to act in the office of military secretary, did (in conformity with the recommendation of the court of directors of the 24th of February 1809,) on the 7th of April 1809, appoint Colonel James Salmond, an officer of the Indian Army, and not belonging to this establishment, to the office of Military Secretary, with a salary of £800 a year, with the express understanding that care would be taken in future to provide a succession of officers to perform the duties of that department.

"That this court hear with surprise, that in the course of four years, notwithstanding the report of the 24th of February 1809, the Court of Directors have not procured any succession of officers to act in the department of the Military Secretary, which office, in case of the resignation or death of the individual now holding it, must again be placed in the hands of a perfect stranger to this house.

"That this court did reasonably expect, after the appointment of an assistant military secretary, in the year 1817, that something would have been done for ensuring a regular succession of properly instructed officers to fill the situation, and thus to prevent the inconvenience that must arise from the resignation or death of the individual who at present holds it.

"That this court have learned with regret, that additional military duties have been transferred to Col. Salmond, as military secretary, he having previously as much business to do as he could well perform, according to the statement made to the proprietors on the 17th of December 1817; and that his salary is on this pretence to be raised to the sum of £2000 a-year, instead of £800, which was originally granted.

"That this Court cannot agree to such increase of salary, as they consider the arrangement injurious to the Company, and opposed to the efficient performance of those duties which are of the first importance to their interest."

Mr. HUME having read the resolution, said that he would hand it up to the chairman, and, with the exception of a few words, would submit it to the court for their approbation.

The resolution was then read by the clerk.

Mr. HUME begged leave to withdraw the latter part of the resolution, which respected the increase of salary. This he did at the suggestion of an honorable friend, lest the resolution might be considered as merely referring to a matter of money. He did not view the object in a pecuniary point of view at all. He did not object to the grant, that was not his object in moving the resolution.

Mr. S. DIXON—"The amended motion is of such a length, it embraces so many subjects, and calls on the court to state their opinion on so great a variety of matters, that I hope the honorable proprietor will not press it without proper consideration."

The CHAIRMAN—"Has this amendment been seconded? I should almost hope not."

A short pause here took place, which was terminated by.

Mr. LOWNDES, who rose and begged leave to second the amendment, since none else seemed willing to do so. He adopted this course on the plain ground, that, in so high an office as military secretary, where the correspondence of an army of 150,000 men was to be attended to, they ought to have persons in various gradations, in order to fill up any vacancy that might arise, instead of trusting to the health of an individual. Such was the mode adopted with respect to the British Navy. What was the reason, that there were six Lords of the Admiralty? It was to afford the two junior lords an opportunity of learning their lesson. If there were two young sucking lords, in time of peace, assisting to manage a navy of not one-tenth the number that was kept up in time of war, why should not Colonel Salmond have a salmon trout, or, in other words, an assistant, to enable him to perform his duties during a period of hostilities. The company ought, in time of war, to have at least two persons in the office of military secretary, one to give every assistance to the other. Suppose, for instance, that Colonel Salmond was ill, who was then to supply his place? Was the Indian army to be neglected in consequence? Was it to be at an awful stand still because Colonel Salmond was sick? The observations of his hon. friend were excellent; and he would state the reason why he thought so, namely, because the court of directors could not answer them. He was sure they could not give any cogent reason for pursuing this system of economy, and yet he gave them credit for it in their capacity of directors. He did so because every body of directors were fond of patronage; for it was very natural that all of them should be desirous to bring forward some friend or relation. Here, however, it appeared that a source of patronage was sacrificed; but though he gave them credit for honesty, he could not compliment them on the soundness of their judgement. The two principles were entirely at variance on this occasion. The court of directors wanted credit for taking care of the funds of the Company; but it often happened, in great political matters, that two and two did not make four. Here the heaping so much business on Col. Salmond was not true economy; for two heads on many occasions were much better than one. If he were their military secretary, wishing always to sustain the character of an honest man, he should

like to see persons about him who were able to appreciate what he was doing, for fear of unpleasant rumours respecting his conduct being set afloat. A gentleman in office ought to have a coadjutor, not merely to assist him, but to clear his character when it was unjustly assailed; and they all knew that scandal stalked abroad in every direction. In this scandalizing age no man could escape censure; and therefore, if he were in office, he would be glad to have a person to appeal to, when he was attacked. The necessity of appointing an assistant to Col. Salmond was very clear, because he could not reckon on his life a single hour while in India. (Mr. Hume observed, that Col. Salmond was not in India, but employed in that House.) Could any person, continued Mr. Lowndes, assert that Col. Salmond would be free from those disorders incidental to all men who lived in India? (Laughter.) Must he not, indeed, from the fatigue of his mind, be more subject to those disorders than other men?—(Laughter and Cries of "Order!")

An Honorable Proprietor rose to order. He observed, that the facetious gentleman had been speaking on a subject with which he was totally unacquainted. Colonel Salmond was not acting in India, but was at that moment employed upstairs in the Company's house in Leadenhall street. (A laugh!)

Mr. S. DIXON said, it was his wish to draw the attention of the court and particularly that of the worthy proprietors (Mr. Hume,) to the nature of the amendment. Much pains as he had taken to render his amendment clear to the proprietors, it embraced so many observations and dealt so largely in assertion, that the court could not be prepared to act on it all at once. He did not mean to enter into any argument on the subject; but from the importance of the motion, he conceived the honorable gentleman himself, and every proprietor in the court, before he was called on to give a decided opinion upon it, must rather wish that the proposition was not pressed on them, but that further time might be given for its due consideration. He believed that he did not stand alone in this opinion.

Mr. GRANT expressed himself sorry that he was obliged to address the proprietors a second time, in order to correct what appeared to him to be a misapprehension of the conduct pursued by the court of directors in 1809, when he had the honor of presiding in the chair. The hon. proprietor had entirely mistaken what passed upon that occasion. There was no pledge of any kind given by the court of directors, still less any thing like a pledge that they would in future secure in provision of the assistance that might be eventually wanted in the house from extraneous supplies. The case was this; the functionaries in the various offices of the house then appropriated to the home affairs and to the foreign, were generally introduced into the service at a very early age, and initiated and carried on in their respective offices, in which they usually rose by the rule of seniority. This had been a long established practice, recommended by reason and experience, as the best mode of forming a stock of official knowledge, and providing for the due conduct of all the business of routine. But there are departments in the India house where talents and knowledge of a very superior order are required; such especially, is the department of the examiner of India correspondence, in its various branches, distinguished into political, military, revenue, and judicial, &c. (Hear hear.) For these it may, or may not happen that the requisite talents are always to be found in the degree or to the extent required among the servants trained within the house; and then will arise the alternative either of submitting to the inadequate execution of very important business, or of seeking for the requisite qualifications beyond the pale of the service. An exigency of this kind pressed so much upon the court of directors in the year 1809, that they felt themselves obliged to bring it before the general court, and to propose the appointment of three assistants in the large departments of correspondence before mentioned, for the revenue, judicial, and military branches respectively. All their assistants it was proposed to select, not from the service, but the general mass of society. The measure, though not deemed to be necessary, was entertained by the court of proprietors with some expression of jealousy for the rights of the regularly trained servants of the house, and therefore, in the vote of acquiescence which was passed on the occasion by the general court, a sort of caveat was entered against drawing this measure into a precedent. So far, then, were the court of directors from having given any pledge to provide the requisite qualifications in future from extraneous sources, that they were rather cautioned against recurring in future to that expedient.

Mr. HUME here interrupted the hon. director. He said, the declaration he alluded to, was this, that though there were no persons in the house, at that moment, capable of undertaking the duties of the military auditor's office, yet that there were young men coming forward, who, it was hoped, when they had a little more experience, would be found perfectly efficient; that provision was then made for instructing them in the duties of this office, and that there would be no necessity hereafter to seek for the assistance of strangers, as the directors would avail themselves, in future, of the talents which they found in the house.

Mr. GRANT continued. How then, he demanded, would the censure of the hon. proprietor apply to the court of directors? Did he mean they should be blamed for not having formed those abilities which nature only could create and mould? The directors had systematically pursued the ancient practice before described for the supply to the home service. But the abilities of young men could not be ascertained, could not be matured all at once; the extent of their powers could only be developed in a course of time. It was not possible immediately to tell whether a young man, placed for instance in the military secretary's office, would ultimately be qualified to fill the situation of military secretary: time alone could develop his peculiar talents. The hon. proprietor's motion went either to ensure the court of directors for not procuring within the walls of that house the talent required, or else for not drawing it from without. As to the former, they could not create talent. Natural talent, improved by cultivation and experience, was what the superior situations in many of the Company's offices, particularly those connected with the foreign correspondence required; and he could safely declare, that wherever ability was found in that house the court of directors wished to make the best and most proper use of it. But it did not follow that talent would always be found among those reared in the house commensurate to the exigencies of the service. This had been felt since the introduction of extraneous aid in 1809; but the court of directors have been slow to apply to that resource again, as well from their own indisposition as the jealousy then expressed by the court of proprietors. Hence they were prevented from seeking assistance out of doors, and obliged to confine themselves to such talent as they actually possessed within. But to expect, that, on the system of taking in young men at a very early age to be trained in future years, a selection could at first be made which would ensure adequate talents for such arduous situations as were now in question, would obviously be vain. In general, no early decision could be made respecting a fitness of this kind; time

and trial were necessary tests of it. The subjects to be handled could only be cognizable by mature age, and if young persons early received into the house were ultimately found incapable of performing the higher duties of any of the departments, in such case no other expedient remained but that of looking out of the India-house for persons possessing the necessary qualifications. Surely then, the hon. proprietor did not mean, when he spoke of procuring a regular succession of adequate talent, that the directors could be expected to engage for that within the house which only time and nature could produce; or, on the other hand, that after the distrust which the general court had indicated when extraneous aid was first proposed, they should be forward to come again before the proprietors with other propositions of the same kind? and especially if, to fulfil the pledge which the hon. proprietor erroneously supposed them to have given, they were frequently to recommend the introduction of strangers. Here, said the hon. director, the executive body felt themselves placed between difficulties, and he looked upon the whole proposition now submitted to them in the shape of an amendment, to proceed entirely upon mistaken premises, to be completely useless itself, and to convey a censure on the court of directors which was perfectly undeserved. The only safe plan on which they could proceed was this, to make the utmost use of the ability which they found within their walls, but when talent was wanted which they could not discover in the house nor do without, to look abroad sooner than submit to so serious an evil as that of having momentous business imperfectly performed. (Hear.) His opinion was, ten years ago, that although the Company possessed considerable ability within the house, and indeed that several of the heads of offices were men of distinguished fitness for their situations, yet that the affairs of the Eastern empire had extended to such a magnitude as to require for the conduct of the correspondence with the various governments more instruments and more powers than the actual establishment afforded. Economical motives had always checked the court of directors from proposing measures that would be attended with any considerable expense; but such had been the progressive increase, such especially was now the prodigious extent of the Company's dominions, producing proportionable details of military, political, revenue, judicial, and miscellaneous correspondence from hence, that persons who were at all acquainted with the subject, must confess they were conducted by fewer instruments than those employed by any other government on the face of the earth of equal importance. (Hear, hear.)

It was clearly necessary, that eminent abilities should be selected where eminent services were to be performed. He would, in the first place, look for talent in the house, and he would give the utmost indulgence to those who were reared up in the service; but if the Company could not find persons within their walls possessing talents adequate to the fulfilment of particular duties, they must go out of the house to seek for them. This he conceived, was the only just view which could be taken of the subject, and what the hon. proprietor himself could hardly avoid acquiescing in, though, in his misapprehension of what before passed, he had groundlessly censured the court of directors. On another topic suggested by the speech of the hon. member, Mr. Grant said he hoped to be indulged in a few words. He must take the liberty to say, that the interference of any hon. proprietor, however well informed he might be, in the details of the business of the house, and the arrangements growing out of them, details and arrangements immediately in the province of the court of directors, he thought uncalled for, and unnecessary; and that this was a sort of proceeding which of all other, a candid and liberal proprietor would be slow to enter upon with respect to the executive body. (Hear, hear.)

Mr. R. JACKSON said, as he was the mover of the amendment to the original resolution for the appointment of Colonel Salmond, he wished to make a few observations before the question was put from the chair. Cordially approving as he did of Colonel Salmond's introduction to their service, cordially approving of his former increase of salary, and most cordially approving of the addition now proposed, he was extremely desirous that the ground on which he acted should be well understood. A want of the accurate recollection, which the hon. director who had just addressed them was known to possess, had, he feared, betrayed him (Mr. J.) into something like a misrepresentation; but he could assure the court that he would not wilfully mislead them. He believed he was incorrect in stating, that the directors had rather argued against the resolution of amendment adopted by the proprietors in 1809; indeed he was much mistaken if he had not previously submitted his amendment to the chairman of the day (Mr. Grant), with whom at that time he was much in the habit of communicating, before he came into court. He recollected, and he would not be doing justice to the court of directors if he did not state, that they were most willing to agree to any fair restriction proposed by gentlemen outside of the bar, with reference to a due attention to the interests of the individuals brought up in the India-house, reserving to themselves, however, the right of selecting persons from without doors, when peculiar circumstances rendered such a step absolutely necessary. He believed that the amendment he proposed expressly contained this reservation, "that when a case of special necessity did arise it should be consulted, but that on all other occasions a decided preference should be given to gentlemen bred in the house." He well remembered it was stated at the time, that individuals who came into their service at an early period of life, whose hope of prosperity depended entirely on regular promotion, who expected to be raised by progressive gradation, and who frequently formed family connections in consequence of the fair prospect which the service held out to them, ought not to be overlooked, unless imperative necessity require it. Nothing, it was said, could be conceived more cruel or ungenerous, than to place persons not originally in the service over their heads, at a time of life when perhaps they particularly looked forward to promotion, and to increase of honour as well as of income.

This was the line of argument which he (Mr. Jackson) remembered to have pursued, and that it was met in a kind and cordial spirit by the gentlemen behind the bar. The hon. director had observed, in his frank and candid speech, that it was not right for the proprietors to interfere with the detail of affairs which were entrusted exclusively to the direction of the executive body. The honorable director would do him the justice to admit, that the interference which he (Mr. J.) had deemed proper, was not with respect to detail, but with reference to principle; and that no less a principle than whether or no the Company should uniformly continue to encourage, promote, and preserve the interests of those who were properly enough called their children, the servants of that house? When that system was broken in upon to any extent, it ceased to be a question of detail, and became one of principle, and as such it was obligatory on the proprietors to take it up. With respect to the resolution now brought be-

fore them by the court of directors, he believed the department to which it related was of such a nature, that they could not get Colonel Salmond proper adjuncts without travelling beyond the walls of that house. He thought it was impossible to carry on the business of that great military office unless they procured assistants who were well skilled in military affairs, and who could boast of military experience. It was not possible, in his opinion, to render this office effectual, without occasionally departing from the established system, and procuring the aid of military men. He would be the last man to impugn the conduct of the directors with respect to the discretion they exercised on this subject; he believed they looked out for the most proper and efficient persons, when they were compelled to seek abroad for assistance; actuated by the best intention, they would, he had no doubt, when they could give a preference to the Company's invaluable retired officers, choose gentlemen of known good conduct, military character, and extensive experience.

With regard to Colonel Salmond, he did not, at the time of his introduction, come before the court as a candidate for office, but the court of directors did on that occasion, as he exhorted them always to do in similar circumstances, they invited the services of a man of ability. It was one of the attributes of sovereign wisdom not to wait for the application or supplication of men of talent, but when governments required such aid in the business of a great and arduous department, they ought not to think it derogated from the dignity of the executive to say to such a man, "we invite the exertion of your abilities—will such a stipend remunerate you for the services you will be called on to perform?" This was precisely the case here; but he suspected that Colonel Salmond, in the first instance, entered on his situation rather relying on the liberality of the Company to grant him an adequate reward at a future period, than stipulating very nicely in the outset; with that feeling he believed Col. Salmond was content to forget for the moment what he owed to his family, and to take an office for the two first years at a considerable loss. He removed his family from a suitable situation in a cheap country to a most expensive one in London, and no doubt could be entertained but that he undertook the office on rather too low terms; therefore, at a future period, when the Company had become convinced of his great skill and consummate ability, the court of directors acted but with common honour in recommending to the proprietors an increase of salary, and thus redeeming the pledge that had been given to him. Let the court consider what Col. Salmond's situation was in another point of view; he was not in an office to which annual emolument were attached beyond what he received as salary, nothing was given under the head of gratuity, or under any other term or title; he believed his office did not come within the pale of those gratuities that would have improved his income; but after serving number of years, he said, what he ought to have said sooner, "you see what I am, you see what I can do, you are the best judges of my most now respectfully state, I have a family which must be provided for, and that cannot be done out of my present salary." The Company at that time gave him but £900 a year, and no proposition ever gave him (Mr. Jackson) more satisfaction than that for increasing his salary to £1500 per ann.; the duties demanded it, and if he at all regretted any think connected with the increase now proposed, it was the accession of labour by which it was accompanied. It was now proposed to give him £2000 a year, and even when paid at that rate he would be one of the cheapest servants in the establishment. He knew no man who did more for his money, and it should be observed that all the duties he performed were of the most important nature. He, therefore, taking his hon. friend (Mr. Hume's) motion in good part, though he could not agree to all of it (hoping the spirit of it would not evaporate, but that the court of directors would take measures to procure a proper succession), suggested the propriety of not pressing it at the present moment. He did not conceive that any good objection could be made to the amount of salary proposed to be given to Col. Salmond.

His opinion was that Col. Salmond should be amply remunerated, but that the Company should, as soon as possible, take such steps as would prevent them from being dependent on his individual talents. It was the more necessary that they should do so, when they recollected the extent of the business Col. Salmond had to perform. The case of every individual in the three Indian armies, who considered himself hardly dealt by, and who wrote home on the subject, came under his cognizance, and an infinitude of documents must necessarily go through his hands. It was not possible for the court of directors to inspect them in the first instance. Gentlemen would recollect the masses of papers which, in only two or three cases, had been lately laid on their table. So voluminous were these documents, that they frightened persons from examining them; and yet, in addition to such, Col. Salmond had to look to the case of every dissatisfied officer in India who addressed the authorities at home. When he said every dissatisfied officer, he did not mean to deter those gallant men from putting in their modest claims; on the contrary, he wished the speediest attention to be paid to them; but to go through these complicated duties, to peruse these multitudinous documents, it was necessary that there should be an able functionary. It was indeed scarcely possible for any one to endure such a course of slavish reading, except men of his (Mr. Jackson's) profession, who were daily and daily and hourly condemned to it. Col. Salmond had undertaken one of the most laborious situations, he had proved himself to be a most deserving officer, and he therefore cheerfully agreed to the proposition. He was sorry that his hon. friend did not strike out of his amendment those lines which even hinted an opinion that a larger sum was proposed than ought in future to be attached to Col. Salmond's situation. He hoped Col. Salmond would long continue to give the Company his zealous services; and he trusted the court of directors would profit by the observations of his hon. friend, and take care to render the public service as little dependent as possible on the health or life of any individual whatever. (Hear, hear.)

Mr. BOSANQUET rose, not to lengthen but to contract the present debate. Two things were mixed up quite unnecessarily in the amendment. Two distinct propositions were without any reason brought forward by the honorable proprietor; one related to the salary of Col. Salmond, and the other to some supposed impropriety or neglect on the part of the directors, with respect to the arrangement they had made in the office of military secretary. If it were necessary for him to say any thing on the subject of Col. Salmond's talents, he was perfectly ready to do so; but he, and he believed the whole court, felt that it was perfectly unnecessary. His opinion, as one of their servants, was this: that the sum proposed to be granted to Col. Salmond was necessary to keep him in the situation, to retain him in the Company's service; and he would say that it was well deserved by the gentleman for whom it was required. He flattered himself, Col. Salmond's usefulness being admitted, that the original resolution would be unanimously agreed to. If there were any thing in what had fallen from the honorable proprietor which made

if necessary that the conduct of gentlemen behind the bar should be impeached, if they had given pledges which they had not performed, if they had not made arrangements which they declared they would establish, he hoped the accusation would be made the subject of a distinct proposition. He would not go the extent of saying that they had done every thing they ought to do; but he pledged himself to meet this part of the question at any time, and to justify before that court the conduct adopted by the executive body. If, when he had made himself master of this subject, and it came regularly to be discussed, any thing was found to be improperly done or to have been neglected by the court of directors, he would be ready, whether the blame lighted on his shoulders or on those of others, to acknowledge that the honorable proprietor was right and the executive body were wrong. He hoped the court would see the propriety of granting this sum of £500 per annum, as an increase to the salary of their military secretary; and he would only add to what he had already stated, that whether the proprietors loaded him with a larger benefit or lessened the sum now proposed, Col. Salmond, by his meritorious services, had deserved well of the Company.

Mr. ROBINSON hoped, as the business was now fully before the court, that he might be allowed to answer some part of the reflections thrown on the executive body by the hon. proprietors who had caused this discussion. In his amendment he did not object to the substantive vote of the court of directors for an addition to the salary of Col. Salmond, but he had charged the executive body with a neglect of duty. That charge had been so fully answered, as to render it unnecessary for him to say any thing on the subject. But the hon. proprietor had gone farther. He had also accused the court of directors with inconsistency of conduct, an accusation which he thought he could explain so satisfactorily that the court would not agree with the amendment; which, in fact, had nothing in it but the stigma intended to be thrown on the directors. It might have been stated long since, that the duties of the military auditor were so great as to require the aid of an assistant secretary, in order to lighten the labours of the situation. When the duties were performed by the military auditor, before assistance was obtained, they were executed in a manner that greatly exceeded the expectation of any individual who had an opportunity of witnessing his exertions. But, at the same time, it was to be recollected, that having a great deal of civil business under his charge, he could not give that attention to the military department which was necessary. The inevitable consequence was, that Colonel Salmond found a very great arrear of business when he took charge of the office; so much indeed, that with all the attention and ability which he had devoted to the duties that devolved on him, it was only within these few months that he had conquered that arrear. He had now, however, the pleasure of stating to the court, that the whole military correspondence was completed up to the latest period, that not the slightest part of it was at present in arrear. (Hear, hear!) This being the case, it was the duty of the court of directors to consider how the abilities of Colonel Salmond could be applied with most advantage to the service of the Company. The honorable chairman knew that the detail of the military business of India had been committed to different hands. The memorials were before the committee of correspondence, and other branches of the same service were submitted to different bodies of the direction, without the knowledge of the military secretary, although he was in fact the military correspondent. The consequence was, that errors and misconceptions, which such a mode of doing business must necessarily produce, did sometimes occur in the military correspondence. The attention of the court of directors was therefore drawn to the propriety of placing the whole of that correspondence under the supervision of the military secretary, whenever it could be conveniently done. That period had now arrived, and the transfer was made. It was true Colonel Salmond had a greater variety of business to attend to, but it was equally true that he had not a greater portion of actual employment than he formerly had; for every hour of his life, at least the usual hours of transacting business, were previously engaged in this house. Therefore he contended, that when the court of directors stated, bearing in mind the arrear of correspondence, that Colonel Salmond could not undertake the whole business and allotted a part of it to Colonel Bryce, and when at a subsequent period they found he had conquered that arrear, it was on their part a measure of necessity and of propriety to transfer to him the duties which he (Mr. Robinson) had mentioned, and in doing so the executive body had committed no sort of inconsistency whatever. (Hear, hear!)

The Chairman said, he hoped the honorable proprietor would not attempt to encumber a plain proposition, of a distinct and substantive nature, having for its object the granting a well merited reward to a faithful servant, by persisting in an amendment which embraced matter, to say the least of it, somewhat extraneous. As had already been stated by the honorable director, if the executive body be thought deficient or negligent in the performance of their duties, let them be brought fairly and openly before the court, let not the charge appear collaterally in business not at all connected with it. The vote proposed by the court of directors had nothing to do with the successor to Colonel Salmond. That gentleman, he was happy to say, enjoyed very good health and strength, and would, he hoped, serve the Company efficiently for many years. The court were only called upon to give him this increase as a reward for his past, and a fair and honest stimulus for his future exertions, which he should be sorry to see rendered less zealous in consequence of any words which might be added to the resolution, either by the court of directors or by any other body. The honorable proprietor had certainly advanced two or three points under considerable error, but his honorable friend (Mr. Robinson) had set him right. He had endeavoured to prove an inconsistency on the part of the directors in the arrangement they had formerly made, and that which they had recently made; but this honorable friend had shewn, that it was a proceeding which naturally grew out of the circumstances of the case. At this moment Colonel Salmond, overwhelmed as he was with business, had brought up the military correspondence to the latest period. He had not only done this, but he had brought personal applications for the redress of grievances, &c. before the court of directors and almost the whole of them had been adjudicated. (Hear, hear!) He believed that scarcely one military case now remained before the court.—(Hear, hear!) It was said that the directors had neglected their duty in not providing for a regular succession of officers in this department; but those who knew military subjects properly must be aware that information of the description required in that office was not to be gained in a moment: it was only to be acquired by attention and experience. He begged to state to the court, that

Colonel Salmond did at present derive considerable assistance from a very intelligent young man* if fate should snatch Colonel Salmond from their service, he did not mean to say, that this young man would be at once able to perform the duties of the office, but his attention and application were such, that a period he hoped would arrive when the individual to whom he alluded would be capable of undertaking the task. He stated this particularly, because he wished the court of directors to be relieved from the charge of neglecting talent and ability. (Hear, hear.) As had been said by his hon. friend Mr. Grant, mental qualifications must be bestowed by nature; they could not be forced beyond a certain point. Talent and ability could not, like fruit trees, be placed in a hot house and forced into premature perfection. If the directors had failed in procuring abilities in that house, it was to be attributed to natural causes, and did not arise from any neglect whatever. He could state, for himself, and for all those around him, that a stranger was never introduced into that house without the deepest regret, and under the influence of the most positive and decided necessity. He hoped the conduct of the court of directors would be viewed with candour, and that the vote of £500 a year in addition to Colonel Salmond's salary would pass without this amendment, which was an incumbrance to the proceedings and altogether unnecessary. (Hear, hear!)

Mr. HUME said, no part of the amendment which he had submitted to the court, after striking out the last clause, objected in the slightest degree to the proposed grant; no words had fallen from him expressive of any wish not to give every encouragement to Colonel Salmond: the only point of that amendment which contained any objection related to the sum contained in the resolution of the court of directors. With respect to the other portion of the amendment, he wanted no other argument to prove that it was founded on just reasoning beyond the few words that fell from the honorable chairman that moment. He had stated that it required a long life to prepare an individual for this situation; and yet, before the sentence was closed, that a young man brought up in the house was almost capable of undertaking the duties. His objections to the proceedings of the court of directors were twofold; first, that they had not provided for a regular succession; and next, that they had only given one reason for this increase, namely, that they had loaded Colonel Salmond with an increase of duty. He did not oppose the increase of salary, but he certainly objected to the reason they assigned for granting it. The amendment did not operate at all against Colonel Salmond, but against those principles to which he had been always adverse. He thought the statement he had made had not been fairly treated; and he could not see that he had been guilty of the improper interference to which the hon. director (Mr. Grant) had alluded. Undoubtedly the attempt to find fault with the conduct pursued by any body of men must be unpleasant to those immediately concerned, but that consideration ought not to stand in the way of the performance of a public duty. This was not a matter of detail, but of pounds, shillings and pence; and as his amendment did not militate against any thing contained in the original resolution, he hoped it would be suffered to remain. He wished to see this department properly supported; and he hoped the amendment would be agreed to, as a kind of spur to the court of directors. He would remove every thing offensive from the amendment, and he hoped it would have the effect of causing the directors to provide for a proper succession in the office of military secretary.

Mr. GRANT hoped the court would allow him to read the resolution of 1809, they would then be enabled to judge whether his interpretation of it, or that of the honorable proprietor, was the more correct.

"That this court relying on the discretion of the court of directors, and fully sensible of the justice and weight of the observation contained in the report now read, recommending the appointment of a military secretary and two assistant secretaries in the auditor's office, agree in the propriety of the said recommendation; but that this court, while it approves of the proposed appointments, desires to express its own sense of the necessity of continuing the protection of the East-India Company to those individuals who have performed long and meritorious services in this house. And this court farther resolves, that if the court of directors find it necessary to place persons not regularly bred in the house in those situations, the said appointments shall in no wise be drawn into a precedent hereafter."

He (Mr. Grant) now asked of the court of proprietors, whether the view he had taken of this resolution did at all comport with that expressed by the honorable proprietor, which, if it meant any thing, went directly to cramp and fetter the discretion of the court of directors, an object which was not contemplated when the resolution was passed.

Mr. D. KINNARD said, it was not his intention to vote for the amendment, because he thought the directors had not forgotten any part of their duty. He felt, that they were placed in a very awkward situation. First, they were told of the necessity of making appointments to this office, and next they were reminded of the great jealousy with which that court viewed any attempt to introduce strangers within those walls. It was very hard to blame them for not having a superabundance of talent in that house, which it appeared was now called for. But on another occasion, perhaps, if it were stated that there was a great accession of talent, it would be said, "O, it is very true, talent is an estimable thing, but take care of the funds, see that the account books are attended to." He felt that a very strong case indeed must be made out to induce him to agree to a vote of censure, particularly when he recollected that there was the thunder of his hon. friend on the left (Mr. Hume) hanging over them whenever there appeared the slightest want of economy, or the least symptom of inattention on their part; and he confessed he was not ready to blame them on every occasion. He fully and entirely agreed in the sentiment, that it was of great importance to have talent and ability in the house, and on every occasion when it was necessary he should feel himself called on to attend in his place, and support the directors when they drew on the funds of the Company in order to provide for an accession of talent. Great talent, in his opinion, could not be too highly rewarded.

The amendment was then negatived, and the original resolution was carried unanimously.

* Mr. PHILIP MELVILLE.

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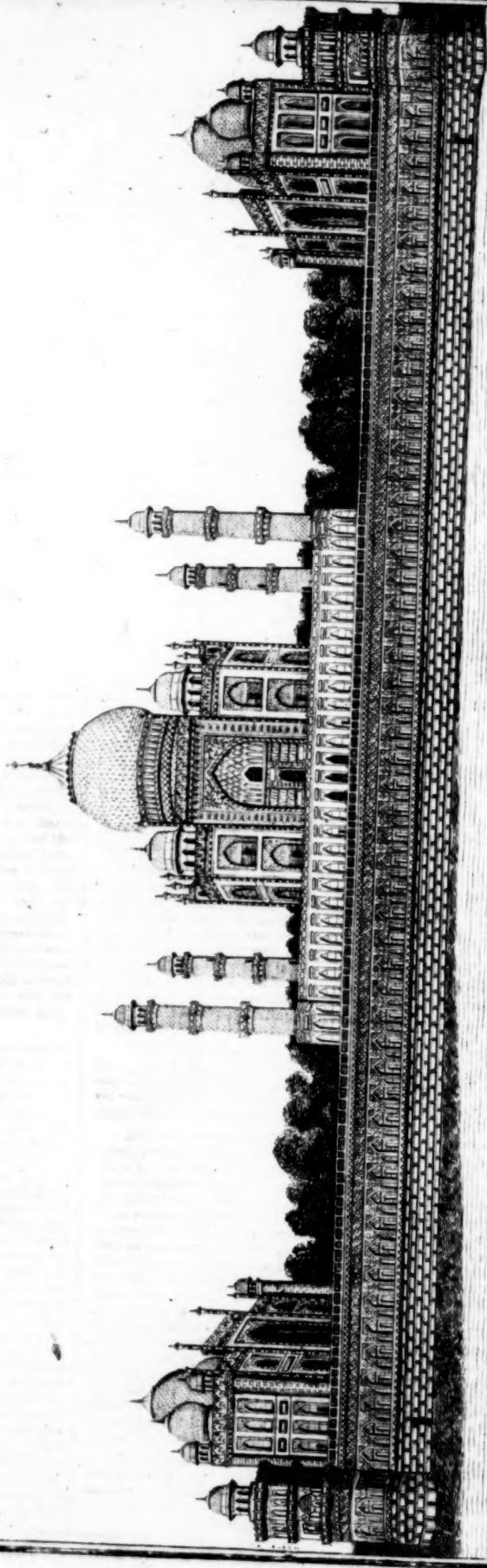
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View of the Taj Mahal
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Plate XIII.



Drawn & Engraved for the Cabinet Journal.